



# MISSION VIEJO REPORTER



Proudly Printed in Mission Viejo, California

VOLUME THREE, NUMBER TWENTY

MISSION VIEJO, CALIFORNIA

February 2017

## Highlights

Top Firefighter 2016

One-Armed Man

Double D's

Full Metal Jacket

Valentine Sweeties



The Mission Viejo Reporter promises fast, fair, and accurate reporting. If for any reason we fail to live up to these promises, please don't tell anyone.

Questions or Comments:  
949.364.2309 • missionviejoreporter@gmail.com

# VOYAGE TO THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA

MISSION VIEJO IS RICH IN SEA FOSSILS

During the initial build out of Mission Viejo, scientists said they made significant discoveries among the thousands of fossils dug up in this area, including previously unknown species of whales, many in the backyards of our residents.

The first fossilized bone found in Mission Viejo (not the biggest), was found on **Via Viento**. As the first homes were being built, a roofer, who was also a part-time archeologist, noticed something in the soil. Paleontologists were called and all building was terminated indefinitely. An Orange County ordinance and state law require that developers hire qualified archeologists and paleontologists to monitor construction likely to unearth fossils. When building homes and roads resumed, many homeowners found and kept fossils and bones that were in the streets or their yards.



Resident holding his bone



Hunting Fossils

...Continued on Page 3



GOOD ONLY AT RUBY'S DINER

THE SHOPS AT MISSION VIEJO

258 The Shops at Mission Viejo  
Mission Viejo, CA 92691



## MISSION VIEJO SWEETHEARTS

Thanks to our very active Facebook page (3800+ fans), Mission Viejo residents have submitted some terrific Valentine's pictures. Inside this issue, we have highlighted a few for your enjoyment. Although some call **Valentine's Day - Single's Awareness Day**, please enjoy our spread on Mission Viejo lovers.



Kristopher & Amanda



Marie & Mark Hisaka



Mary and Pat Mallon



Ashley and Matthew Moe



# A MOMENT WITH **MADAME MAYOR** Connectivity, Trails, Infrastructure



By Mayor Pro Tem, Wendy Bucknum

Mission Viejo is not an island and we have trails that partially connect to regional trail systems. It is important that we connect the North to South trail systems so that residents can walk, run or bike, to get from one end of Mission Viejo to the

other.

The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG). SCAG is also working with its jurisdictions and county transportation commissions to increase access to public transit and to provide greater opportunities for walking and biking.

In an effort to provide Mission Viejo residents and employees with alternatives to travel, and bring our taxpayer dollars back for investment in our community, the City of Mission Viejo recently submitted grant funding applications to Caltrans and to SCAG, to develop a Bikeways Connectivity Master Plan for the City's trail system. The purpose of the Master Plan would be to identify existing gaps in the City's Class I trail system, and propose linkages to interconnect residents and workers with schools, homes, community facilities and even the Laguna Niguel/Mission Viejo commuter rail station through an inter-connected trail system. The City should receive notification in February 2017 on the status of the



## A BIG WIN FOR RELIABLE POWER

by Mission Viejo City Councilman Brian Goodell

December 28, 2016

I am excited to represent the people of Mission Viejo on the City Council and I want to thank the voters for placing their trust in me. One commitment I made during my campaign was to keep public safety and disaster preparedness as two of my top priorities. One of my first actions as a councilman was to testify before the California Public Utilities Commission.



The project has been in the process of gaining approval for nearly five years and had reached a critical point and was in danger of being denied approval due to lack of support from the City of San Juan Capistrano. This would have put all South Orange County residents at risk of short-term and long-term power outages.

Mission Hospital Regional Medical Center is the only trauma center in South Orange County and in the event of an extended power outage, public safety services would be stretched thin and all new trauma patients would be required to bypass Mission Hospital.



I'm happy to report that the CPUC heard our voices and voted 5-0 to approve the South Orange County Reliability Enhancement Project that will enhance the safety and reliability of our power supply well into the future!

## Ask Me...

*I can help you*

Lieutenant Ken Binning  
Chief of Police Services



**Q: QUESTION FOR THE CHIEF :**

***What is the normal response time if I call the Sheriff to my home?***

**A: ANSWER:**

Response times vary by severity of crime, time of day, weather/road conditions and the experience of the law enforcement personnel servicing a community. Also, to break them up by violent crimes and non-violent crimes would be a mistake.

Response times do vary, we would respond in a much more rapid fashion in proceeding to a medical emergency (not a crime) than to a resident arriving home and discovering that their house was burglarized (a felony). Certainly, our response time to aid residents is quicker using our lights and sirens.

An emergency response dictating the use of lights and sirens that was in excess of six minutes would be out of the ordinary.

K.L. Binning  
LIEUTENANT / OCSO  
CHIEF OF POLICE SERVICES  
CITY OF MISSION VIEJO



For Questions for the Chief, e-mail questions to:  
[missionviejoreporter@gmail.com](mailto:missionviejoreporter@gmail.com)

## TRUMPCARE?

By Colonel Greg Rath USMC (RET)(Mission Viejo City Councilman)



On January 3rd a new Congress was sworn in followed by a new President on January 20th. Hopefully, our new President, Representatives and Senators are committed to solving or nation's problems. No, not everything can be fixed in just one session. Many issues, even important issues, will have to sit on the back burner while Congress focuses on restoring the economy and getting government out of the way of the people who create jobs.

Without these fixes, nothing else matters. For example, even though we have the best and mightiest military in the world, they can't defend us if we can't afford to deploy them. Likewise, we can't address the health and welfare of citizens without the wealth needed to pay for them.

Ending Obamacare will be the first step in undoing the damage to our economy. It will reduce the restrictions that have kept business people from investing in America. More has to be done, but ending Obamacare will be a step in the right direction. Obviously, we'll still have to address the problems that the Affordable Care Act was supposed to resolve. Republicans will have to reciprocate with openness to repairing the system the Democrats almost destroyed. I encourage an effective, while cost-efficient healthcare system; a free-market system that provides quality and personal choice without growing the government, invading our privacy, and raising our premiums. Insurance companies must be able to compete across state lines for customers, and lowering the price of prescription drugs must be a priority.

Ok boys and girls; get to work for the good of our country.



# VOYAGE TO THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA

## ...CONTINUED

The **Mission Viejo Reporter** visited the site of the first fossil find and shared the historic information with the lucky homeowners **Gene and Rebecca Rodriguez**. Gene and Rebecca have lived in their Via Viento home for over twenty years. When building a patio years ago, the Rodriguez's remember finding many bones, but thought they were from animals.



Gene and Rebecca Rodriguez at Ground Zero

The biggest fossil found was the whale bone discovered during the building of the Felipe Tennis center. A segment of that fossil is now on display in Mission



Los Angeles Natural History Museum



Ziggy Wilczynski and whale bone at Site

"The discoveries confirm that this area near Oso is one of the top 10 marine fossil-producing areas in North America," said Dr. Lawrence G. Barnes, former curator of vertebrate paleontology at the Natural History museum.



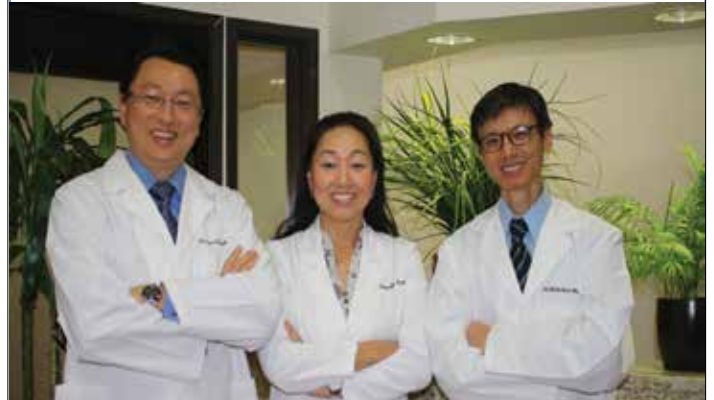
Jacques Cousteau in Mission Viejo



Whale Bone Exhibit in Mission Viejo

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# SUPER SALESMEN

## SECRETS FROM MISSION VIEJO'S TOP PERFORMERS

**Matt Hasso** is consistently the top salesman at South County Lexus on Marguerite Parkway. Matt sells about 240 cars a year! The **Mission Viejo Reporter** asked Matt what is his special skill or secret that helps him sell so many cars. Matt responded "I find out what the customer wants, not what I want to sell to the customer".

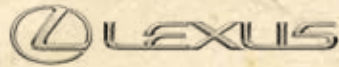
The choice of which vehicle to buy is, of course, the whole point of the customer coming into the dealership. South County Lexus has a huge supply of new and used cars for his customers to choose from.

"Auto sales is very critical because it involves a lot of money, it might be the second biggest investment after buying a house. That is why a successful sales person should be very honest and up front with clients and take care of all the wants and needs and that's what makes a difference. Because of this I have been at this dealership for over 10 years and I have clients that send me referrals from their family and friends because they know that they will be treated fairly."



Matt Hasso

Matt Hasso 714.651.3201



Meet **Clayton McEuen**. He's Super Salesman at Infiniti of Mission Viejo. At the time of this writing he leads New Car Sales at the Mission Viejo store for January. The **Mission Viejo Reporter** had to meet this Wonder-Boy, and see his world. His showroom corner office is sleek, comfortable with no frills, he's there to sell cars.



Clayton McEuen

Clayton McEuen 949.290.6689

Clayton arrives early each day at Infiniti, he looks and dresses smart. He wears a clean white shirt, blue tie, and a sharpened stainless steel tie clip. He's hungry enough and has a desire to succeed. We're impressed.

If you're looking to lease or buy an Infiniti, get it from Clayton. From start to finish you can expect a great experience with him. He's someone who really cares about making the customer happy. Clayton works very hard to get you exactly what you want at a price that's within your range.



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FROM OUR OVER-THE-TOP DEPT.

# Mission Viejo's MOST EXPENSIVE HOME

**For a Mere \$4,200,000 You Can Live Here**



This Mediterranean-style lakefront estate will make you feel like you are living in your own Marguerite-a-ville, surrounded by the blue waters of Lake Mission Viejo. This incredible home features a downstairs master suite along with three additional bedroom en-suites, a theater and an office.

Built in 2006, this massive structure that dominates Lake Mission Viejo, and is located in the famed Tres Vistas community, and has just been put up for sale for \$4,200,000. This property has 6,215 sq ft with a 12,100 sq ft lot and its own private dock.



Legendary real estate agent **Scott Arnott** of Coldwell Banker Previews International, (949) 375-1265 who last sold the highest priced house on Lake Mission Viejo a many years ago for \$3,650,000, hopes to break his record with this beauty.

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 **MISSION VIEJO**  
REPORTER

*Mission Viejo Sweethearts*



# WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT?

The **Mission Viejo Reporter** thought it would be fun to ask what local kids think of the question what is love.

## What is Love?



"Love means everybody has a family."  
-Adam, Age 4

"Love is someone or something you adore and care for and you like them a lot. Enough to say the word love." - Jack, Age 8 ½

"Love is when you get chased."  
- Isabella, Age 4

"Love is, um, hearts and kisses. Oh, and hugs." - Finn, Age 5

"I don't know...dreamy? I haven't done that yet." - Chase, Age 6

"You really want to get the girl."  
- Ethan, Age 10

"Those are weird questions to ask kids. We don't know what to say to that."  
- Maude, Age 7

"It feels like you might kiss them!"  
- Bella, Age 6

"For boys, if they give a girl a rose, she might fall in love with him. For girls, they might say hi and wave to a boy."  
- Natalie, Age 6

"For starters take them to a romantic dinner or movie. And, probably also...giving her a ring and probably going to the beach and laying down and seeing the moon and stars." - Lucas, Age 6

"By dressing nicely and walking by them. That one is easy." - Bella, Age 6

"Ewwwwwwwwwwww!" - Gavin, Age 7



## A ROCK AND HARD PLACE Finding The Perfect Stone

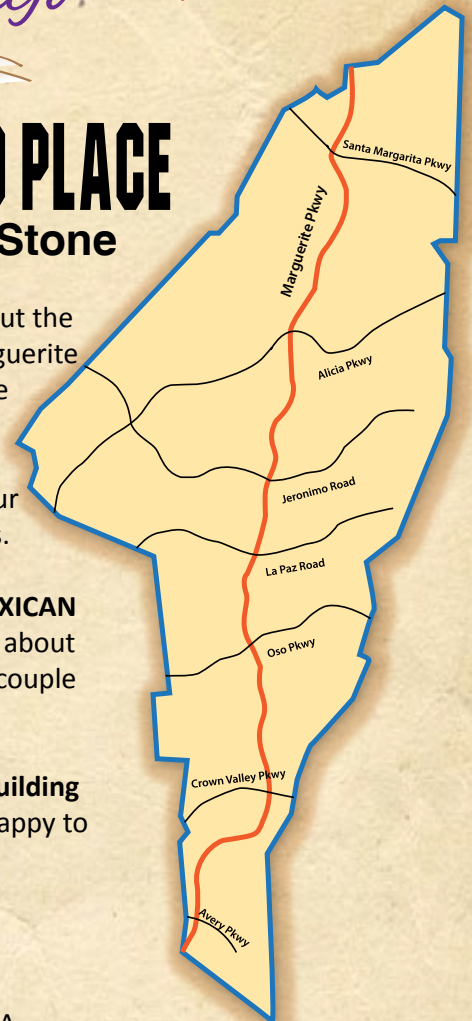
Many residents ask the city about the beautiful rocks that are along Marguerite Parkway. They want to know where they can purchase them for their yard and flower beds. This rock is used by the city around many of our drought-tolerant plants and shrubs.

The official name is **MOJOSA MEXICAN RUBBLE**. The decorative rocks cost about .14 per pound and they come in a couple of different sizes.

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FROM OUR **ALONG THE TRAIL** DEPT.

# ONE-ARMED MAN APPLAUDS MISSION VIEJO

## CITY RANKS HIGH IN DISABILITY AWARENESS

Last month, the **Mission Viejo Reporter** caught up with **Paul Browne** on the Oso Creek Trail. Paul told us no other city is more disability friendly than Mission Viejo.

"You can be yourself here, and that's a very broad statement," says Paul. He adds that people with disabilities have been a public presence here for so long that they're part of the daily landscape. He said, "People here also obey the handicapped parking spaces at the stores".



Paul Browne

For the blind, Mission Viejo offers crosswalk indicators on the curb and audible on the poles. Our trails have wide accessible ramps for wheelchairs and scooters. Almost all of our parks have equipment designed for children with disabilities and bathrooms are all ADA compliant. Mission Viejo recreation opportunities include outdoorsy activities as hiking, bocce-ball and camping, that are fully disability-friendly.

# HERITAGE HAPPENINGS

## HISTORY COMES ALIVE THIS SPRING

Mission Viejo is barely 50 years old, but thousands of people have lived and raised families here. Along the way, they have snapped millions of photos, capturing the essence of this great city. We want to record and share these.

Librarian **Jeff Price** and the Heritage Committee are supervising workdays where folks can bring in up to 20 photos of local history to be scanned and cataloged. Two dates are scheduled on Saturdays, March 4 and April 8. Interested? Contact the Library Reference Desk at 949-830-7100 x 5105.



Librarian Jeff Price

Did you know that saber-tooth tigers once roamed freely in what is now Orange County? Dr. Eric Scott will explain and enhance our knowledge of prehistoric life in California, and discuss his fossils of prehistoric horses currently on display in the Library's Heritage Room. - February 26 - 3 p.m.

All lectures will be held in the City Hall Council Chamber, and





## SOUTH COUNTY LEXUS

at Mission Viejo

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## SOUTH COUNTY LEXUS PRESENTING ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

### Cami Hidalgo

Mission Viejo Nadadores



Six days a week **Cami Hidalgo** practices the sport she loves. Hidalgo is a diver for the Mission Viejo Nadadores. She has been diving for nine years and has recently signed to dive at Georgia Tech. Hidalgo's goal is to well represent her school, as well as take advantage of any international trips she might come across. Hidalgo says her favorite part about diving is being able to travel the world. She has been able to qualify for international meets in Russia, Germany, and Australia. Perhaps Hidalgo's greatest diving accomplishment, however, was participating in the 2016 Olympic Trials. Hidalgo is grateful for the people diving has allowed her to meet and the opportunities it has provided.



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### FROM OUR GETTING THINGS DONE DEPT.

## TOP EMPLOYEE OF 2016

### MISSION VIEJO'S EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR 2016

**Mark Joson**, a longtime Information Technology Specialist, has been named the City of Mission Viejo's 2016 Employee of the Year.



Employee of the Year Mark Joson

Mark started with the City as an IT technician more than a decade ago and quickly moved up the ranks into the specialist position thanks to his superior skills and professionalism.

"Much of what Mark does is behind the scenes and not visible to the everyday citizen or City staff member, but his touch and impact are significant and everywhere," said

Director of Information Technology Jackie Alexander.

Mark lives in Cerritos with his wife and two children ages 8 and 4. Mark says his favorite pastime is spending time with them.



### FROM OUR CANDY DEPT.

## SENDING LOVE & TOOTH DECAY

### SWEETHEARTS STILL GOING STRONG



simple recipe since 1902, when they were first introduced.

Since the early 1990s, however, the sayings have been changing, an idea spurred by then-vice president Walter Marshall. Original mottoes still in the mix include "Be Mine," "Be Good," Kiss Me," and—of course—"Sweet Talk." In 1997 "True Love" was resurrected from the early 1900s to celebrate the company's 150th anniversary.

Mission Viejo lovers have been sharing **Sweethearts** with each other for 50 years. Sweethearts are the bestselling treats made by **NECCO**. In keeping with tradition, Sweethearts have been made from the same



# ***BULLETS FLY*** ***in Mission Viejo***

## **Resident Cruises in a 1955 Classic Cadillac**

Meet Mission Viejo resident **Jared Kaufman**. Jared was born at Mission Hospital, moved away, and for the last nineteen years has lived in Mission Viejo. Jared drives a 1955 Cadillac Coupe de Ville just for the fun of it. He has collected quite a few automobiles over the years - three Lincoln Continentals, three Volkswagen buses and two Model A Hot Rods. Jared fixes 'em up, drives 'em, and then sells 'em.

His latest acquisition is this classic Cadillac de Ville, with 250 HP, power windows (an almost first in 1955), power seats, power steering and brakes. The back seat is so big you could raise a family of six back there. The best feature of the 1955 Cadillac is the huge, firm, sitting way-up-high chrome bullets on the front on the cars, some called them "The Marilyn Monroe grill".



Jared found this beauty in Los Angeles on Craigslist, and after some squabbling bought her and brought her back to Mission Viejo.

Next time you see those big double D's coming at you down Marguerite, be sure and wave it's Jared and his 1955 Cadillac.



# **Ask Aunt Sandy**



- with Sandra Ferguson

*In the tradition of great personal advice, Mission Viejo Reporters' own Aunt Sandy is a straight shooter who relates to all ages. She researches topics of interest to her readers and then answers their most personal questions with empathy and gentle humor.*

Dear Aunt Sandy,

Two men who claim to be father and adopted son recently bought an older house across the street from us and fixed it up. We notice a very suspicious mixture of company coming and going at all hours - Blacks, Whites, Orientals, Mexicans, women who look like men and men who look like women. We even saw a priest go inside.

People come by in everything from motorcycles to Cadillacs. We can't hear the music but I know they are laughing and dancing in their living room, because I can see them if I stand on a chair and look out my window through the curtains.

This has always been considered one of the finest sections of Mission Viejo and these people are giving it a bad name. How can I improve the neighborhood?

- Sincerely,  
Menaced Off of Marguerite

Dear M.O.O.M,

You sound too uptight. I think the best way to improve your neighborhood is for you to move.

-Aunt Sandy

*If you have a question or comment for Aunt Sandy please email:  
missionviejoreporter@gmail.com*



FROM OUR AROUND TOWN DEPT.

# BARCELONA WALLS

## OLD MISSION VIEJO ARCHITECTURAL STYLINGS

This subtle architectural feature has been around since the early days of Mission Viejo, but you might not have noticed it.

The "Barcelona Walls" were placed as entrances as part of the Mission Viejo Company's Master Plan at key intersections throughout the community.

They all feature curving brick walls with a ball on their top and were based on a Southern Spain aesthetic. The architectural style in this part of Spain is a blend of architectural styles: Spanish, Moorish and Rustic, similar to Tuscany in Italy.



These walls will remain as they are, as they are part of the heritage of the community.

# NOT YOUR MAMA'S SALON

## MISSION VIEJO RESIDENT INSPIRES OTHERS TO STEP UP

Salons, commonly associated with French literary and philosophical movements of the 17th and 18th centuries have all but died. However, thanks to Mission Viejo resident and **Mission Viejo Friends of the Library** board member **Kathleen Cunningham**, the Salon has risen from the ashes.

A salon is a gathering of people under the roof of an inspiring host, held partly to amuse one another and partly to refine the taste and increase the knowledge of the participants through conversation, ideas and talents.



Last month, at her Mission Viejo home, Kathleen assembled about 10 different participants to showcase a variety of ideas: a violinist, an art historian, poem reader, a sculpter, guitar duo, and many more. Kathleen said; "To bring this many people together, who don't necessarily know each other and share ideas and music was wonderful". **Mission Viejo Mayor Wendy Bucknum** was at the event and said, "What a terrific party, art appreciation begins in the home".

**Mission Viejo Reporter Editor Dave Leckness** who was there and witnessed the spectacle said:

"William Shakespeare said, 'All the world's a stage' he didn't say 'All the world's a science lab or all the world's a math quiz'. We need the sciences to stay alive but we live for the arts."



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FROM OUR GOING COMMANDO DEPT.

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## THE ONLY HEART YOU'D RATHER NOT RECEIVE

### PURPLE HEART:

Being wounded or killed in any action against an enemy of the United States...

The Purple Heart is a United States military decoration awarded in the name of the President to those wounded or killed while serving with the U.S. military.

The Purple Heart differs from most other decorations in that an individual is not "recommended" for the decoration; rather he or she is entitled to it upon meeting specific criteria. A Purple Heart is awarded for enemy-related injuries.



*Dennis Lumley and his Purple Heart*

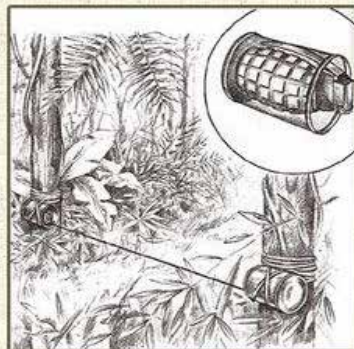
Many Mission Viejo residents have received the Purple Heart while serving our country **Dennis Lumley** is one of them.

In 1969, while on a reconnaissance mission, in the jungles of Vietnam, while walking single-file and in the lead position, **Dale Gronski** tripped a hidden bobby-trap, killing himself and injuring Dennis and others.

The **Mission Viejo Reporter** wants to thank all our Mission Viejo Purple Heart recipients and thank them for their service.



*Vietnam-era Water Booby Trap*



*Vietnam-era Land Booby Trap*



# RIP TIDE ROCKIN'

## THE CROWN JEWEL OF KALEIDOSCOPE

We had the pleasure of eating at **RipTide Rockin' Sushi and Teppan Grill** several times this month and every experience was phenomenal. Rip Tide is located at 27741 Crown Valley Parkway, at the top of the Kaleidoscope, and they have two things that I am crazy about: A teppan table, the only one in Mission Viejo, where we can sit and watch the chefs prepare our food and a huge Sushi bar. The Sushi bar, with it's delectable rolls, is the perfect place for a date night. The cocktails are amazing and served like they're a work of art. I promise you that you won't be able to choose a favorite. The Bloody Mary is a sight to see! It's as big of a drink as I've ever seen, with an extra large shrimp hanging off the side.



RipTide Rockin' - Kaleidoscope M.V.

Recently, we took our four kids to have dinner at the Teppan table and they were quite delighted. Adrian, the manager, sat us at the table with some really fun people who said that they had been coming to this place for more than 10 years. We all tried everything from lobster and halibut to steak and chicken and the Chef kept tossing our kids more bites which made them giggle throughout the entire meal. Two of them caught the rice in their mouths and they'll be talking about it for weeks to come. I'd like to give a shout out to our chef, **Oscar**, who was quite entertaining. My kids were asking when we could come back before we even passed the awesome fish tank, near the front door.

If you're planning a family night out, or want to have an unforgettable brunch, keep this place in mind. If you mention the "MV Reporter", they'll treat you to a free dessert this month with any purchase. You can totally blame me for your new addiction. Hope to see you there!

### FROM OUR PRODUCT TESTING DEPT.

# WHOOOPS!

## BROKEN SCREEN PROBLEMS SOLVED

The **Mission Viejo Reporter** recently took **Office Max** on Crown Valley up on their offer to fix our broken iphone screen. Here are the results. The sign on the wall says



same day service, so we asked assistant manager **Rudy** if that was a true and accurate statement. Rudy said "Yes", with a smile. We dropped off our broken screen phone at about 10 AM, and at about 11:30 AM, we received a call from Rudy saying the phone was ready and complete.



The cost of repair was only \$129.00, and it looks brand new. Call or stop by and see Rudy. He'll change your life. If not that, at least he will fix your phone.

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# Intersections WE REMEMBER



La Paz Road bridge overpass construction 1966

FROM OUR ON FIRE DEPT.

## TOP FIREFIGHTER OF 2016

MISSION VIEJO'S OCFA EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR



Mission Viejo Firefighter Tim Brooks

Firefighter **Tim Brooks** of the Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) has been named Mission Viejo's 2016 OCFA Employee of the Year.

Firefighter Brooks, who has served Mission Viejo for eight years, is known for his vast experience and longtime dedication to this community.

He is responsible for task-level skills on Truck 9, a technical rescue truck, Station 9, located near The Shops at Mission Viejo. Along with fighting structure and wildland fires, handling medical aids, vehicle accidents and other emergencies, he performs trench, swift-water, rope and helicopter rescues. This impressive firefighter is also a member of FEMA's California Task Force 5, an elite team of rescuers and support staff who are deployed anywhere throughout the country for hurricanes, earthquakes, floods and other natural or manmade disasters.

Earlier this year, while driving to work, he saw a motorcyclist crash on the freeway and immediately sprang into action to help the severely injured man. He did so while putting himself in harm's way on the freeway.

Mission Viejo is a safer place having Tim Brooks nearby.



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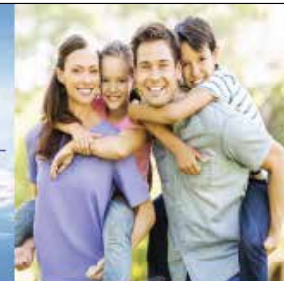
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